



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926, www.esd401.org, Phone: 509-925-8000, Fax: 509-925-802

September 15, 2020

Good morning ESD Team,

We have had a great start to our new 2020-2021 school year. Last Friday, a parent of a new kindergarten student expressed her appreciation for the way her child's teacher caused her child to be excited about school. Additionally, I had an opportunity to visit Mr. Wickwire's classroom during his Zoom session with students. I was grateful for the open and accepting learning environment that he had already set up for his freshmen virtually. Establishing positive relationships with students is an important priority for ESD.

Celebrations:

Kudos to all of our amazing ESD teachers who have gone the extra mile to connect with students and parents. A special thank you to our parents for bearing with us as we work out the kinks in our new technology systems. Currently, we are working together to smooth out the syncing ability between Edgenuity, Schoology and Skyward. We are confident that by working together, we will find solutions that will allow us to use these systems effectively.

A huge shout out to our ESD Nutrition Team! We served approximately 7,000 meals on our first day of school. Again, these meals are free to our children who are 18 and under. Meal packs include five breakfasts and five lunches. These meals are offered once a week on Wednesdays at the following locations and times:

- 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Mt. Stuart Elementary, Morgan Middle School, Rotary Park, Millpond Manor
- 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm at Morgan Middle School

Please help us to get the word out!

Mental Health:

We recently received information from the City of Ellensburg about a free training that is available in our community.

Comprehensive Healthcare is offering a free, virtual Suicide Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) Training on September 22 at 3:30 p.m., and the facilitators are Regina Myers and Morgan Grant. This is a 90-minute training, designed to empower individuals to intervene when someone is experiencing thoughts of suicide, and dispel common myths regarding suicide and mental health. SAFE training covers topics like:

- Behavioral health implications of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Suicide statistics
- Suicide prevention and wellness
- How to help someone experiencing thoughts of harming themselves, and what to do in the event of a behavioral health crisis.



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At the end of the session, the training facilitators will allot time to answer any questions and facilitate discussion. Below is a link where you can register for the event.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/suicide-awareness-for-everyone-safe-registration-120263113209>

Bond Construction:

We are excited about the progress that is being made on the construction of the new school and would like to invite anyone who is interested to join the “Naming of the New School” Committee. <https://forms.gle/v4VCnnnZUtzjKvx1A>

Additionally, last year the ESD Board of Education approved a partnership between the non-profit Pacific Education Institute (PEI) and Ellensburg School District. PEI will be working closely with all staff but especially the staff at the new school to support environmental and outdoor education. Additionally, PEI’s official Field Stem Model aligns well with ESD’s Board Ends. We will be using this model, as well as, the language in our current Board Policy when considering names for our new school.

<https://pacifieducationinstitute.org/work/fieldstem/>

The timeframe for the opening of the new Mt. Stuart is still set for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. It has been exciting to see the steel beams and walls go up!



L/R Bill Lorenz, Dean Mt. Stuart; Kathi Keefer, Principal Mt. Stuart; Jinger Haberer, Superintendent

Online Learning In ESD

More specific information will be sent to parents soon regarding Schoology and log in information for parents. Additionally, Jen Kuntz, Director of Teaching and Learning, recently sent the information below to all parents, and I encourage you to access these resources, as well.



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The Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) has created online modules to support families with remote learning. Please find access to those below for some great video and text resources for supporting your child(ren) during this time.

1. [“Module 1: What is a Learning Management System \(LMS\)?”](#)
Highlights
 - How an LMS benefits you and students
 - Video resources for Schoology

note: Resources that are specific to Canvas, Google Classroom, or Seesaw will not be helpful as we have Schoology as our LMS
2. [“Module 2: Creating an At-Home Learning System/Schedule”](#)
Highlights
 - How to build routines and spaces that support learning
 - How to manage working from home with kids
 - How to build an age appropriate schedule for children
3. [“Module 3: Support Like a Coach”](#)
Highlights
 - How to communicate with your child like a coach
 - How to motivate your child like a coach
 - How to help your family function as a team
4. [“Module 4: Encourage a Growth Mindset-Why Struggle is Good for Learning”](#)
Highlights
 - Strategies for ensuring student wellness
 - How do we support all learners when we are in different spaces and places?

Again, thank you to all members of our ESD family for working together last week to make parent conferences and student connections a success. We look forward to a great week of continuous learning and appreciate our collective commitment to teamwork!

Sincerely,

Jinger Haberer, ESD Superintendent